Dear Friends Everywhere,

The Young Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative (IYMC) would like to tell you the story of our good Friend, F/friendly Fred the Fly:

Fred was born on the Scattergood Friends School Farm at the beginning of the 136th annual sessions of IYMC. That same day, he happened upon what some humans would call, “High School Young Friends.” He found them to be F/friendly and decided to follow them around for the rest of the week’s activities.

Fred buzzed behind the nine Young Friends in attendance and joined them for introductions, but unfortunately, he couldn’t talk. He followed the youth outside for a game of Ultimate Frisbee. He flitted after the Young Friends to the Scattergood pond for an afternoon swim. He sat in on talks about music and spirituality with Deborah Dakin (Clerk of IYMC), Deborah Shaw (Visitor from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative), and Bill Deutch (Rockin’ Accordion Player.) He took part in a capture the flag game with the younger Friends of Junior Yearly Meeting. He was the first to reach the flag, but he couldn’t move it. So, he decided to tag people, but that didn’t seem to do much either.

One morning, he tried to tell the Young Friends that Meeting for Worship was earlier than it had been before, but they were busy playing cards, and he watched his Friends walk in on Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. He joined the teens on the Scattergood Farm for a service project and flew around encouragingly while they tore down an old greenhouse. He participated in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshop in which the Young Friends learned and practiced ways to communicate nonviolently. He attended an evening concert by singer/songwriter Andy Juhl. He was disappointed that the group could not go on their annual canoe trip due to some untimely thunderstorm warnings, instead, he got to watch the teens go bowling after a delicious ice cream outing. He had a refreshing swim at a swimming pool with the Young Friends, but would have preferred it to be less chlorinated. He helped the Young Friends write an epistle, for which the Young Friends were very thankful. Overall, he experienced a week full of Spirit, Blessings, and Spicy Uno with the IYMC Young Friends.

In Love,
Thomas, Claire, Neal, Emily, Sebastian, Jake, Kylie, Trixie, Jonah, and (of course) F/friendly Fred the Fly. IYMC Young Friends 2013.